

Newsletter December 2020

EWA wishes you a Merry Christmas



During the Holidays, the EWA secretariat will be unstaffed between the 15.12.2020 - 04.01.2021.

In this period, questions can be directed to the DWA secretariat of Secretary General, Johannes Lohaus: +49 2242 872 111

We look forward to seeing you again in 2021!

News from EWA

Future Challenges of the Water Framework Directive



4th Web-Seminar in the EWA Brussels Online Series on the European Green Deal and Blue Challenges

► The web-seminar 'Future Challenges of the Water Framework Directive' will take place **Tuesday 8 December at 14:30 CET**: [Flyer](#)

► [Registration form](#) - fill out and submit electronically

Presenters:

- Kala Vairavamorthy, Executive Director of the International Water Association (IWA), UK: 'Challenges influencing Europe'
- Dr. Marlene Liebeskind, Wupperverband, Germany: 'The Technological Challenges to Fulfil the WFD'
- Sabine Schellens, Manager HR & Organisational Development at Aquafin, BE: 'The Human Challenges to fulfil the WFD: How to develop a framework for future staff skills - perspective of Aquafin, the Flemish Wastewater Treatment Company'
- Closing remarks by Bjørn Kaare Jensen, President of the European Water Association (EWA)

Sponsor ?

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Water Framework Directive beyond 2027



3rd Web-Seminar in the EWA Brussels Online Series on the European Green Deal and Blue Challenges

Tuesday 24 November 2020 EWA hosted the 3rd web-seminar in the EWA Brussels Online Series with the title 'Water Framework Directive beyond 2027', where especially Professor Julio Berbel gave an interesting perspective on the future of the WFD.

► [Video](#)

In the video, Professor Julio Berbel, Water, Environmental and Agricultural Economics University of Cordoba, Spain gives a presentation 'A Practical approach to the Water Framework Directive beyond 2027', and afterwards, he and Bettina Doeser, Head of Unit 'Clean Water' at the Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission, Belgium, answer questions.

The presentation of Prof. Julio Berbel begins at approx. 0:55 min. and the questions at approx. 19:12 min.

EWA Christmas Present

Article: 'Water Policy in the Anthropocene'



As a special Christmas gift, EWA gives you access to the following article by M. Granbow, M. Feustel, E. Manz, K. Arzet, T. Hafner, J. Korck:

'Water Policy in the Anthropocene
- Challenges in European river basin management in a new geological era – Reflections on how we can react appropriately'

► [Read the article](#)

The current implications in the quality of air, water and soil are overwhelming the eco-systems – with severe consequences for the future. Nobel Prize laureate Paul Crutzen, among others, introduced the theory of “the Anthropocene” to describe the human-induced impacts on our ecosystems. The key findings of this essay call for a dynamic, trans-sectoral response, which must accompany the whole Anthropocene era. Moreover, the essay shows that key EU environmental legislation is, in principle, equipped to deal with the effects of the environment.

News from Brussels

Topics covered in the News from Brussels

The articles in the News from Brussels section here below cover the following topics:

1. New Drinking Water Directive: Update - adoption envisaged December 2020
2. EurEau publication "The governance of water services in Europe"
3. How to overcome water challenges in agriculture: FAO's The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020 takes a new look at water shortages and scarcity in the world
4. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): Devastating verdict by Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). CAP's environmental ambition (as proposed by the European Commission) about to be dismantled.
5. State aid rules on environment and energy to be amended to support the European Green Deal
6. Upholding the law: Infringement procedures update November 2020
7. IMPEL network commencing project on reversing groundwater pollution
8. European Parliament questions: 7 water-related questions from Parliamentarians, from large-scale animal farms to interpretation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

1) New Drinking Water Directive

Update - adoption envisaged December 2020

EWA News 1/2020, 2/2020 and 5/2020 reported on the political agreement within the trilogue European Parliament / Council / Commission on the recast of the Drinking Water Directive. As of 30 November 2020, the final adoption in the European Parliament Plenary is foreseen for 15 December 2020.

EWA NEWS provides you links to the latest documents by European Parliament and Council.

Read the full article:

➔ [New Drinking Water Directive](#)

2) "The Governance of Water Services in Europe"

Publication from EurEau

EurEau is the European Federation of National Associations of Water Services and has just published its 2020 edition of "The governance of water services in Europe", providing information on:

- Management models (ownership and operation)
- Water tariffs
- Quality of services
- Environmental regulation
- Length of drinking water supply and waste water collection systems
- Average residential consumption
- Average price

Read the full article:

➔ [EurEau publication "The governance of water services in Europe"](#)

3) How to overcome water challenges in agriculture

FAO's The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020 takes a new look at water shortages and scarcity in the world

26 November 2020 saw the publication of the FAO 2020 "State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)" report. FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is a United Nations specialised agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

More than three billion people live in agricultural areas with high to very high levels of water shortages and scarcity, and almost half of them face severe constraints. Furthermore, available freshwater resources per person have declined by more than 20 percent over the past two decades globally, underscoring the importance of producing more with less, especially in the agriculture sector, the world's largest user of water. Improved water management, supported by effective governance and strong institutions - including secure water tenure and rights, underpinned by sound water accounting and auditing - will be essential to ensure global food security and nutrition, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020 - a flagship report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

EWA NEWS provides you links to the full FAO SOFA 2020 report (PDF, 210 pages) and the abstract version (PDF, 28 pages).

Read the full article:

➔ [FAO SOFA 2020 report](#)

4) Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): Devastating verdict by Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP).

CAP's environmental ambition (as proposed by the European Commission) about to be dismantled.

The IEEP, one of the leading European sustainability think tanks, has undertaken an assessment of Agriculture Ministers' and European Parliaments political deal struck so far on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy", delivering a devastating verdict:

Out of six essential elements for keeping the CAP's environmental ambition alive, Ministers' and Parliament's positions undermine 4 out of the 6 points, while the other 2 do not contain sufficient safeguards to firmly preserve or build on the environmental and climate proposals put forward by the European Commission on the political deal struck so far.

Read the full article:

➔ [Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#)

5) State aid rules on environment and energy to be amended to support the European Green Deal

The State Aid Modernisation

Rules on State aid have been part of the constitutional framework of the EU/EC/EEC since the 1957 Treaties of Rome. Based on societal, political and economic developments, State aid rules have changed over time. In particular since May 2012, the EU has seen a major reform of EU State aid rules: The State Aid Modernisation. This allows Member States to quickly implement State aid that fosters investment, economic growth and job creation, leaving the Commission to focus its State aid control on cases most liable to distort competition. As part of the State Aid Modernisation, the Commission has revised a considerable number of State aid rules since 2013.

The rules need to be aligned to future challenges, in line with the Commission's priorities. In particular,

State aid can, and should, contribute even further to the European Green Deal, as well as to the EU's Digital and Industrial Strategies. In particular, the revision of the energy and environmental rules will have to facilitate appropriate measures further promoting a modern decarbonised and circular economy, while ensuring limited distortions of competition and adequate safeguards to the integrity of the single market. This is key, given the past and, most crucially, future budgetary constraints combined with the necessity to support the recovery of the EU economy in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis.

Read the full article:

➔ [State aid rules on environment and energy to be amended to support the European Green Deal](#)

6) Upholding the Law

Infringement procedures update November 2020

The European Union is constitutionally designed as a Union of Law. According to the Treaties (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union), Member States are obliged to comply with EU legislation adopted by the legislator (European Parliament and Council), and the Commission has the right and the obligation to scrutinise such compliance and where appropriate take legal action.

Past weeks have seen a range of legal enforcement actions by the Commission for non-compliance with EU water-related legislation, in particular

- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC,
- Nature protection legislation (Habitats and Birds Directives),
- Access to justice for citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs),
- Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC (Daughter Directive to the Water Framework Directive),
- Flood risk management under the Floods Directive,
- Pollution from industrial activities under the Industrial Emissions Directive,
- Urban waste water treatment under Directive 91/271/EEC,
- Environmental impact assessment under Directive 2011/92/EU,
- Closure, sealing and restoration of illegal landfills under the Waste Framework Directive,
- Bathing water quality under the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC,
- Quality of drinking water under the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

This issue presents general information on the legal background (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union) and the legal procedure, and a range of individual cases concerning these 15 countries:

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain

Read the full article:

➔ [Upholding the Law](#)

7) IMPEL network commencing project on reversing groundwater pollution

IMPEL is the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL). It is organised as an international non-profit association of a total of 55 environmental authorities in 36 countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels.

The IMPEL Network has just started a project on reversing groundwater pollution, a problem many European countries have. With Germany as project leader and participants from Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Malta, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom, the project is designed to investigate problems and possible solutions in a range of diverse European countries.

Read the full article:

➔ [IMPEL network commencing project on reversing groundwater pollution](#)

8) European Parliament Questions

7 water-related questions from Parliamentarians, from large-scale animal farms to interpretation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

The European Parliament is directly elected by citizens of all Member States. One key element within its right to political control is the right to table written and oral questions to European Institutions, largely to the Commission, to a smaller extent to the Council. Members of Parliament show a regular interest of water issues in their Parliamentary questions.

Between 13 October 2020 and 27 November 2020, a total of seven water-related questions have been tabled. The relatively low number should be seen against the background of COVID19 Lockdown Measures both in Brussels (Belgium) and in Strasbourg (France).

EWA News provides you in each edition with the summary text of the questions and their authors and date, and links to the full texts of the questions plus - where already available - answers.

Read the full article:

➔ [European Parliament Questions](#)

EWA Online Activities

EWA Activities 2021

An exciting programme of activities for 2021 is currently being planned.

Among the topics, which will be covered by EWA in 2021 are: **Micropollutants, High Flood Protection, Blue and Green Infrastructure** and **Sludge Management** in connection with the revision of the Sludge Directive.



Information about content and registration will be posted here as soon as available:

- ★ [EWA website](#) (ewa-online.eu)
- ★ [Facebook](#) (@ewa.online.eu)
- ★ [LinkedIn](#)
- ★ [Twitter](#) (@water_ewa)

Call for Abstracts

JSWA / EWA / WEF Joint Speciality Conference on 'Resilience of Water Service'

In December 2021, EWA together with its global partners, the Japan Sewage Works Association ([JSWA](#)) and the Water Environment Federation ([WEF](#)) organise a joint conference on 'Resilience of Water Service'. This will be the 7th joint speciality conference, and it is planned to take place 7-10 December in Sendai, Japan. If at this point it will not be possible to go through with the conference on site, the conference will run online. The call for abstracts is still open:

- ➔ [More information](#)
- ➔ [Flyer with submission for abstracts](#)

Other Events

WaterEnergyNEXUS

Online 2-4 December 2020

The nexus between water and energy is one of the most pressing and important issues that must be resolved by both current and future generations. In an effort to address the problems surrounding this issue, the University of Sfax (Tunisia), in cooperation with the Sanitary Environmental Engineering Division (SEED) of the University of Salerno (Italy), the Advanced Institute of Water Industry at Kyungpook National University (Korea) and The Energy and Resources Institute, TERI (India) is organizing the third edition of the WaterEnergyNEXUS conference. Due to the Corona pandemic, the 3rd WEN will take place as a digital event on 2-4 December 2020.

➔ [Website](#)

EWA Research Member ?

The Sanitary Environmental Engineering Division (SEED) of the University of Salerno, IT, is an EWA Research Member. If you wish to explore your possibility of becoming an EWA Research Member, just send an [email](#).

IFAT India

Online 9-11 December 2020

Messe Muenchen India launches IFAT India Online - a digital platform to bring the environmental technologies community together despite these challenging times. It will enable you to showcase your products and services and to enhance exposure to a large audience from the environment sector, including a vast global network of potential buyers. IFAT India translates the passion of India's game changers and leading environmentalists to bring holistic sustainable solutions to pressing environmental issues-for a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable country.

➔ [Website](#)



Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter is due in February 2021.

Until then, please visit us at:

- ★ [Facebook](#) (@ewa.online.eu)
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- ★ [Youtube](#): EWA Online



Any suggestions, comments or content from the members to the next issue may be send to this [email](#).

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